



April 23, 2009

Ms. Heather Hunt
Department of Justice
Registration Unit
1400 New York Avenue, NW
1st Floor – Public Office
Suite 100
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Hunt:

Please find enclosed two copies of example questions disseminated to the following individuals on behalf of the Government of Turkey by Gephardt Group Government Affairs, LLC on Tuesday, April 23, 2009. Gephardt Group, Government Affairs, LLC is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with the Department of Justice. The example questions were provided in anticipation of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Hearing of Wednesday, April 22, 2009.

Jeremy Haldeman, Office of Rep. Russ Carnahan (D-MO)
Dominic Bonaiuto, Office of Rep. Jerry Connolly (D-VA)
Naz Durakoglu, Office of Rep. Michael McMahon (D-NY)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Messmer", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Messmer

These materials are distributed by Gephardt Group Government Affairs on behalf of the Republic of Turkey. Additional information regarding the Gephardt Group's representation of the Republic of Turkey is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

- 1.) Even in light of Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan's harsh criticism of Israel's military operations in Gaza, indications are that the bilateral relationship between Israel and Turkey remains strong. Additionally, while keeping its Western orientation, Turkey has in recent years stepped up its engagement with countries once part of the Ottoman Empire. Turkey is also experiencing greater influence and admiration in the Arab world. The previous Administration did not look too positively on the now-suspended, indirect talks between Israel and Syria that Turkey sponsored. What is this Administration's position on Turkey's role as a broker in the Middle East conflict? Can Turkey play a role in fostering peace in the Middle East?
- 2.) We continue to hear rumblings (some generated by Turkish officials themselves) that Turkey could be in a position to "mediate" talks between the United States and Iran. During your own visit to Turkey last month, you said on Turkish television that the Administration welcomes Turkish efforts to influence the regime in Tehran, given Turkey's longstanding shared border with Iran and its understanding of the Iranian people. How legitimate are these Turkish claims regarding discussions between Washington and Tehran, and what role do you see for Turkey?

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